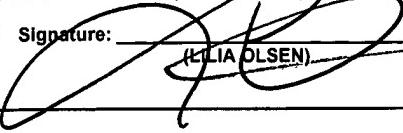


I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Label No. EV 731 515 138 US" under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and addressed to: MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: January 30, 2006 Signature: 

Docket No.: 595792000300  
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Eduardo BLUMWALD

Application No.: 10/617,624

Confirmation No.: 4097

Filed: July 10, 2003

Art Unit: V. Kumar

For: SALT TOLERANT OIL CROPS

Examiner: 1638

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated September 28, 2005, for which a response was due on December 28, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a 1-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to Monday, January 30, 2006. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.